

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated protein comprising ~~an~~the amino acid sequence ~~which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~its partial peptide~~ or a salt thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 1.

3. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 2 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

4. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

5. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

6. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 5.

7. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 6 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 5.

9. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 6, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 9.

11. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 10 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 9.

13. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 13.

15. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 14 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 13.

17. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 10, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 17.

19. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 18 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 17.

21. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 12, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 21.

23. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 22 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 21.

25. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 25.

27. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 26 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 25.

29. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 29.

31. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 30 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

32. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 29.

33. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

34. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 33.

35. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 34 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 33.

37. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

38. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 37.

39. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 38 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

40. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 37.

41. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 22, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

42. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence encoding the protein or its partial peptide according to claim 41.

43. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a base sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 42 or an initial transcription product generating the polynucleotide as a result of processing, or a part thereof.

44. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody for the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof according to claim 41.

45. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical composition~~ for modulating the differentiation of and/or metabolism in an adipocyte comprising the protein, ~~its partial peptide~~ or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim 1, and~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

46. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polynucleotide according to Claim 2, and and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

47. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polynucleotide according to Claim 3, and and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. excipient or diluent.

48. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody according to Claim 4, and and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. excipient or diluent.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to Claim 2, or a part thereof.

51. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to Claim 3.

52. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to Claim 4.

53. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic agent according to Claim 50 for diagnosing diseases involving abnormality of adipocyte differentiation and/or metabolism function.

54. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof having specific affinity for the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 1, or a compound or a salt thereof changing binding property between the protein or a salt thereof and the compound or a salt thereof, which comprises using said protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

55. (Currently amended) A kit for screening a compound or a salt thereof having specific affinity for the protein or a salt thereof according to ~~C~~claim 1, or a compound or a salt thereof changing binding property between the protein or a salt thereof and the compound or a salt thereof, which comprises said protein, ~~its partial peptide~~ or a salt thereof.

56. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof obtained by using the method according to claim 54 and a pharmaceutically acceptable, carrier, excipient or diluent.

57. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 56, which is a prophylactic and/or therapeutic agent for diseases involving abnormality of adipocyte differentiation and/or metabolism function.

58. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof changing the expression amount of a gene encoding the protein according to Claim 1, which comprises screening for said protein using an isolated polynucleotide which encodes for said protein or a part thereof.

59. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening a compound or a salt thereof changing the expression amount of gene encoding the protein as described in Claim 1, which comprises a polynucleotide which encodes for said protein or a part thereof.

60. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof obtained by using the method according to claim 58 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

61. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, which is a prophylactic and/or therapeutic agent for diseases involving abnormality of adipocyte differentiation and/or metabolism function.

62. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof changing the amount of the protein or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, on the cell membrane or in the extracellular fluid, which comprises screening for said protein using an isolated antibody which binds to said protein, in a screening assay.

63. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening a compound or a salt thereof changing the amount of the protein or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, on the cell membrane or in the extracellular fluid, which comprises an isolated antibody which binds to said protein and directions for use.

64. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof obtained by using the method according to claim 62 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

65. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 64, which is a prophylactic and/or therapeutic agent for diseases involving abnormality of adipocyte differentiation and/or metabolism function.

66. (New) A method of modulating the differentiation of and/or metabolism in an adipocyte, which comprises contacting the adipocyte with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a salt thereof.

67. (New) A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof that modulates the differentiation of and/or metabolism in an adipocyte, which comprises contacting a test compound with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a salt thereof; and determining the binding of the test compound with the protein or a salt thereof, wherein the binding of the test compound to the protein or a salt thereof changes at least one cell stimulation activity mediated by the protein or salt thereof, to thereby modulate the differentiation of and/or metabolism in an adipocyte.